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Letter dated 10 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Russian Federation is continuing its aggression against my country and still temporarily occupies the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, other international laws and international humanitarian law instruments, as well as General Assembly resolution 68/262, entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

As an occupying Power, the Russian Federation has the obligation to protect public and private property in the occupied territory. According to recent information, the occupying Power is considering selling property, inter alia, wellness hotels and recreational facilities in Crimea, such as Primorye in the city of Koktebel, Mayak and Zolotyi Plyazh in the city of Feodosia, Horizont and Mir in the city of Alushta, Horizont in the city of Sudak, Tavria in the city of Simferopol, Krim in the city of Sevastopol and Palas in the city of Yalta. In this regard, I have the honour to communicate the following.

Under the Law of Ukraine "On guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of citizens and on the legal regime on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine", adopted on 15 April 2014, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are an integral part of the territory of Ukraine, which is temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

Article 9 of the said Law stipulates that any bodies, their officials and officers on the temporarily occupied territories and their activities are considered illegal if the organs or persons are established, elected or appointed in a manner not provided for by Ukraine's legislation. Any act (decision, document) issued by these organs and/or persons is invalid and does not create legal consequences.

According to article 11 of the Law, property rights on the temporarily occupied territory are protected under the laws of Ukraine.

Furthermore, the State of Ukraine, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, local communities, including the local community of Sevastopol, State agencies, local governments and other entities of public law, retain the right of ownership and other

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property rights to the property, including real estate and land, located on the temporarily occupied territory.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine would like to underline the fact that any transaction in respect of real estate property, including land plots, on the temporarily occupied territory, conducted in violation of the aforementioned Law and other laws of Ukraine, is invalid since its conclusion and does not create legal consequences other than those related to its invalidity.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine would like to draw your attention to the fact that any company acquiring the above-mentioned properties or investing in them can become an object of international sanctions.

In addition, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine urges all States Members of the United Nations to refrain from official contacts with illegal organs or persons established, elected or appointed on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, to put on hold existing bilateral cooperation programmes with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, and to suspend activities within possible existing partnership frameworks (e.g., sister cities).

I would appreciate your having the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative